

August 26, 2009

David W. Danner, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Re: *Verizon, et al. v. United Tel. Co. of the Northwest*
Docket UT-081393

Dear Mr. Danner:

In accordance with Judge Torem's Notice of August 18, 2009, Commission Staff hereby provides its comments on the settlement agreement filed by Verizon and United in this matter. The filing includes an original and ten copies of Staff's Public Interest Analysis and an Exhibit (which contain **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL** information) one redacted copy of the Narrative and Exhibit, and Certificate of Service.

Timothy Zawislak of Commission Staff will be available at the settlement presentation hearing on September 9, 2009, along with other Staff witnesses as necessary, to answer questions regarding the settlement of this matter and United's access charges. The Commission's Assistant Director of Telecommunications, William Weinman, will also be available at the hearing to answer any questions that may arise concerning the terms of the merger settlement recently approved by the Commission in Docket UT-082119.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN C. THOMPSON
Assistant Attorney General

JCT/emd
Enclosures
cc: Parties